ject feasibility reports submitted by U.P. Government in respect of eight towns in that state under Yamuna Action Plan have been approved.

(b) Schemes pertaining to interception and diversion of waste water, sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation, crematoria, development of bathing ghats, afforestation and public participation are to be taken in these towns of U.P. (namely: Sahranpur Muzaffarnagar. Ghazia-bad, NOIDA, Vrindavan, Mathura, Agra & Etawah) under the Yamuna Action Plan. The cost of capital works under Yamuna Action Plan is to be shared equally between the Central and the concerned State Governments. A budget allocation of Rs. 25 crores has been made for the year 1994-95 as the Central Government's share for pollution abatement works under Ganga Action Plan Phase-ll. which includes Yamuna Action Plan as well.

Industrial Plantation to overcome shortage of raw material for paper Industries

5581. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow industrial plantation of trees on degraded forest land to meet the shortage of raw material for the paper industry; and

(b) if so, What are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) In view of the large quantum of degraded forest land in the country, and the need to afforest it urgently so as to expand green cover, discourage encroachment and halt soil denudation, and also to meet rural fuel and fodder needs and to reduce pressure on existing natural forests, the Government is considering to involve industry in afforestation of severely degraded areas, in partnership with State Forest Development Corporations so as to augment the efforts of the Central and State Governments, NGOs and people's co-operatives. The matter was discussed at the recent Conference of Forest Ministers of States and Union Territories and at the National Environment Council. A scheme in this regard will be finalised only after careful assessment of various issues involved, including, interalia, its legal aspects, its likely effect on rights and concessions being enjoyed by local villagers and tribals in forest areas and the requirements of scientific silviculture and biodiversity conservation.

Preservation and promotion of endangered species

5582. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Ministerial level meeting under the auspices of the Global Tiger forum was held on March 3rd and 4th this year; and

(b) if so, what were the precise observations and suggestions made therein, particularly those relating to Indian wildlife, expecially preservation and promotion of the endangered species of Indian wild cat/ tigers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the meeting pertain to the establishment of the Global Tiger Forum for the conservation of the Tiger and its habitat all over its range of which India is an integral part. The broad

objectives of the Global Tiger Forum are as under:

—To promote a worldwide campaign to save the tiger, its prey and its habitat.

—To urge the international community to abandon use of tiger products and eliminate illegal trade in parts products and derivatives of tiger.

—To increase the protected area network of habitats of tigers and the interlinking corridors in the range countries.

—To promote a comprehensive legal framework and provide necessary financial and infrastruc-tural capabilities for effective conservation of tiger.

—To implement programmes of eco-development with full participation of local communities living in and around protected areas.

—To promote appropriate programmes for training, scientific research, and awareness building and set up suitable mechanisms for the implementation of field programmes necessary to achieve effective conservation of the tiger.

—To elicit support and help of the Governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations and individuals for the protection of tiger, its prey and habitat, directed at a healthy build up of tiger populations throughout the range countries.

—Toipromote bilateral co-operation among range states for the con-servation of tiger and its habitat.

Newsitems regarding epidemics in Delhi

5583. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHA-JAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRO-MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Indian Express of 7th March, 1994 under the heading, "laying the ground for epidemics in Delhi",

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) whether tons of municipal rubbish, hospital waste and drainage and sewerage water of Delhi finds its way to river Yamuna; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(d) what preventive steps Government have taken or propose to take in this regard; and

(e) what are the details of steps taken to check the supply of contaminated water to the people and to prevent spread of epidemics in Delhi during the coming rainy season ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) yes, Sir. According to the Government of Delhi, about 1000 tonnes of garbage is dumped daily at Bhalaswa landfill site. In addition, about 1150 million litres of partly treated and untreated waste water per day is discharged through 17 drains in Delhi. Only a small quantity of sterilized and uninfected hospital waste is dumped at this site.

(d) and (e) The land filling is done in a scientific manner to avoid the washing of garbage into Yamuna during monsoon. The garbage at the landfill site is compacted and kept covered to prevent any adverse impact on the groundwater quality or river water quality as a result thereof and also to prevent the possibility of spread of epidemics. Under the Yamuna Action Plan and the Government of Delhi's own plan, the present sewage treatment capacity of 1270 million litres per day is to be augmented to 2270 million litres per day to minimise the water pollution on account of discharge of